

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A lottery terminal apparatus, comprising:

a lottery input unit;

a value input device;

a controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor, said controller operative with said lottery input unit and said value input device to:

receive a play phrase from a user that includes a plurality of words designated by the user,

receive wager data in response to a wager made by the user,

assign a prize value to each of the plurality of words in the play phrase designated by the user as a function of the ~~complexity of the words~~ commonality of letters that form each selected word in the play phrase,

randomly generate a random string of letters,

correlate the random string of letters to the play phrase to determine any words in the play phrase that are formed from the random string of letters, and

determine a prize payout value based on the correlation between the words in the play phrase and random string of letters.

2. Cancelled

3. (Previously Presented) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said lottery input unit comprises a lottery play slip reader for importing said play phrase coded onto a lottery play slip.

4. (Previously Presented) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein

said lottery input unit comprises a touch-screen device for receiving said play phrase as inputted by the user.

5. (Original) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said value input device is a card reader for accepting value information encoded onto a readable medium.

6. (Original) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said value input device is communicatively connected to a value acceptor and configured to accept value information communicated from said value acceptor.

7. (Previously Presented) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said memory stores a probability distribution indicative of the frequency at which each letter in said play phrase occurs to assign a prize value to said play phrase.

8. (Previously Presented) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the random string of letters includes a wildcard that may be substituted for any one of the letters in the words of said play phrase.

9. (Original) A lottery game system comprising a plurality of lottery terminal apparatuses as defined in claim 1, said lottery terminal apparatuses being interconnected to form a network of lottery terminal apparatuses.

10 - 28. **Cancelled**

29. (Currently Amended) A lottery ticket, comprising:

a section having a play phrase printed thereon that comprises a plurality of words selected by a user;

a prize value printed on said ticket that is associated with each of the plurality of words in the play phrase, wherein said prize value increases ~~with the complexity~~ as a function of the commonality of letters that form each of the selected words in the play phrase;

a randomly generated string of letters in a second section beneath a removable cover layer, said cover being selectively removable to reveal said random string of letters; and

wherein the user is awarded a prize payout corresponding to the prize value for the words in the play phrase that are formed completely from the randomly generated letters or that contain all of the randomly generated letters .

30. (Previously Presented) The lottery ticket of claim 29, wherein said random string of letters includes a wildcard that may be substituted for any one of the letters in any of the words of the play phrase.

31. (New) The lottery ticket of claim 29, wherein said prize value also increases as a function of the number of words in the play phrase or length of the individual words in the play phrase.

32. (New) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said prize value also increases as a function of the number of words in the play phrase or length of the individual words in the play phrase.